

The only hope is education, yet the limitations placed on this solution are severe. The author feels that the rightful function of education is to fit the young "to participate in their culture and to preserve it"; social change must come from the adult community, not the schools. In addition, each culture is "to have considerable respect for the past and its achievements, to rely on scrutiny and selection at least as fully as on experiment. . . ." Under such restrictions education can never transcend the tight boundaries of individual cultural groups in anything but science, which we previously found inadequate to establish universal moral judgments.

It would appear then that Dr. Sears is left with the theory of evolution as his sole universal principle. He answers the neo-Darwinian school by citing mutual aid as evidence against competition and struggle. However, mutual aid is but an empirical fact which would seem to satisfy antithetic hypotheses. Thomas Hobbes' idea of man under natural law is not contradicted by the fact of mutual aid. Nietzsche is summarily dismissed, maybe rightly so, but his belief in the struggle against nature and the will for power cannot be ignored when considering the philosophic significance of the theory of evolution.

Possibly much of the confusion arises from the oversimplification which brevity necessitates. Dr. Lecomte du Noüy has observed that the "scale of observation" colors any conclusions obtained. Dr. Sears passes from the philosophic implications of the theory of evolution to the effect of the theory on democratic schools, etc., with but brief regard of the different conditions inherent in such diverse situations. Had his perspective been as constant as, for example, the view of the universe taken by George Stewart in *Man, An Autobiography*, the argument would have been more lucid. Nonetheless, Dr. Sears surveys a very difficult subject in a brief and provocative manner, and points up many relevant and interesting facts concerning Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution.

K. G. B.

HISTOLOGY. By Arthur W. Ham. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1950. xix + 756 pp. \$10.00.

A book in which an effort has actually been made to present a subject to beginning medical students as clearly and interestingly as possible has been published in the field of histology. This stated goal of Dr. Ham's has been thoroughly achieved, for the book serves not only as a fine histology text, but as an excellent introduction to endocrinology, cytology (in the presentation of staining techniques), and many aspects of physiology. Dr. Ham's claim for its usefulness to graduates of medicine may perhaps be questioned, however, since his treatment of topics is of necessity on a plane too broad to be suited to few other than freshman students.

The outstanding feature of the book is the author's ability at clear expression free from the usual textbook faults of monotony in style and sickening repetition. The sections on bone and tooth formation should be

especially noted for their clear explanation of topics not always well treated in other texts.

The organization of material is to be commended on several counts. Knowledge from other fields, along with many pertinent clinical facts, is skilfully and extensively woven into the histological description instead of being artificially consigned to separate sections or omitted altogether. An outstanding example is the section on skin grafting and regeneration. Interest is sustained and the student is given a wider view through the numerous short accounts of the research leading up to a modern concept. And finally, on a materialistic level, the student will undoubtedly appreciate Dr. Ham's recognition of some of the difficulties encountered in the laboratory. There is a section at the beginning of the book on common artifacts and one finds remarks throughout on staining problems which account for some structures being seen with difficulty or not at all under certain stains.

The format, paper, print size, and half-tones are all excellent, though the four-color plates are not especially noteworthy. Indeed, one color plate (showing endochondral bone formation) with an added tissue paper sheet for its legend seems entirely superfluous and extravagant. It is very unfortunate if this plate contributed materially to the book's being considerably more expensive than other histology texts. It is to be hoped that a large circulation and economies in printing will allow the price of this text to be reduced to that of its competitors. The average medical student, I believe, can better appreciate a trend toward more readable texts if it does not simultaneously mean a trend toward further drainage of his wallet.

R. G.